

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reluctantly support this conference report, as well as commend Chairman YOUNG, Mr. OBEY, and the conferees for their hard work in bringing this difficult bill to the floor. Clearly, many of my colleagues share my ambivalence about this legislation. As a body, we seem to be all over the place on this measure. Some of my friends on the Republican side voted earlier this month to oppose NATO intervention in Kosovo; now they support doubling the President's Kosovo budget request. My Democratic colleagues support funding to provide relief to tornado victims in Oklahoma, hurricane victims in Central America, and refugees in Kosovo; however, they balk at the bill's environmental riders and inflated defense spending. Members on both sides of the aisle decry emergency designation of non-emergency items, but we have a bipartisan inability to admit that our current budget caps are unrealistic and unworkable.

I have great concerns over portions of this legislation; however, on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the need for much of the funding is real and outweighs my reservations. Given the situation in Kosovo three months ago and our commitment to the defense of Europe, I believe that President Clinton made the right decision to join our NATO allies in acting against Milosevic's ethnic cleansing campaign. The responsibility to allocate dollars to pay for the military campaign falls on the Congress. While the increases over the President's request for Kosovo should be addressed in the regular 2000 appropriations process, we need to move forward to commit these funds.

I strongly support emergency funding for non-defense items in the supplemental. The Congress has moved expeditiously, as is our tradition, to address the destruction caused by recent tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas. H.R. 1141 also includes long overdue relief to Central America still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Sorely needed relief is being supplied to America's farmers.

Today's vote to provide \$100 million in military assistance and economic support to Jordan coincides with the visit of King Abdullah. These funds will enable that nation to assist in the Middle East peace process, pursuant to the Wye River agreement. There is renewed optimism that the recent elections in Israel can help reinvigorate that process.

This bill also includes some important legislative provisions. The repeal of the June 15th funding cutoff for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State and the Federal Judiciary, included in the fiscal 1999 omnibus bill, ensures that essential government functions no longer face shutdown. The bill grants the Department of Justice the authority to make restitution to Japanese Americans and Latin Americans of Japanese descent who were forcibly detained in the United States during World War II, but whose claims have

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not been settled. Settlement of these claims will close a shameful episode in this great nation's history.

The Republican majority continues to use appropriations bills to pass damaging environmental provisions. This time we have Senate provisions to protect narrow special interests at the expense of the environment. We continue to delay reforms to the 1872 mining law and changes in oil valuation which ensure that the government receives reasonable royalties from drilling on federal land. I urge my colleagues to vote to recommit this legislation so that the bill's onerous environmental provisions can be removed.

So, while I share the reservations voiced by many of my colleagues, I believe we need to move forward with the important work H.R. 1141 funds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following statement to my colleagues. When I was traveling back to Washington, D.C. on May 24, 1999, H.R. 974, the District of Columbia College Access Act, was passed by voice vote. Due to the fact that I was commuting and the vote took place before the 6 p.m. scheduled time, I missed the voice vote. I would like to make it known for the record that had I been present, I would have asked for a recorded vote and voted against this bill. I do not feel that students in the District of Columbia should be made "exceptions" when it comes to paying in-states fees at any state institution. This privilege is not granted to students in this country who choose to attend a state college outside of their residential state.

CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170 OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION CELEBRATES ITS 92ND ANNIVERSARY**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 92nd Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, June 6, 1999.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Frances Joan Banchy, Willard A. Conway, Thomas Fadlevic, Marie Flynn, Edward W. Fritz, Frank Grishka, Steve Massack, Violet Mae Mikulich, John Mlacak, Mary Patterson, Marian P. Ritter, and Mike Svaco.

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These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this status.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Benedict Benakovich officiating. In the afternoon, there will be a program featuring a guest speaker, Mr. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, Indiana. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," directed by Brother Dennis Barunica, and the Hoosier Hrvati Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, directed by Edo Sindicich, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica, and the Adult Kolo group, under the direction of Elizabeth Kyriakides, will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 4 o'clock in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECIPIENT PRINCESS VICTORIA KA'ULANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Princess Victoria Ka'ulani Elementary School, which has earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program identifies and gives national recognition to a diverse group of public and private schools that have been judged particularly effective in meeting local, state, and national goals. In being selected, Princess Ka'ulani Elementary School displayed the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. The school demonstrates its strong leadership by providing high quality teaching, instilling policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, initiating strong parental and community involvement, and helping all students achieve to high standards.

The awarding of Princess Victoria Ka'ulani Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School is made even more special by the fact that this year marks the school's centennial anniversary. The school opened its doors on April 22, 1899 and was named for the beautiful Princess Victoria Ka'ulani. The name Ka'ulani

means "Child from Heaven." The students come from diverse cultures and various social backgrounds in the Kalihi-Palama neighborhood of Honolulu, Hawaii. And while the neighborhood is sometimes known for gangs and drug dealing, the school has a warm and friendly environment. The school definitely exudes the spirit of "aloha" and "ohana" (family). This nurturing atmosphere helps students to believe in themselves and offers an opportunity to learn and move forward.

There are a variety of factors that contribute to the school's success. For example, at the beginning of each year, parents are given a student ready reference guide, a school profile, and a syllabus of the school's curriculum and activities. To further initiate parental involvement, a monthly parent bulletin is jointly authored by Title I, Parent-Community Networking Centers (PCNC), Primary School Adjustment Project (PSAP) and the Principal. Community involvement is also well established. Groups such as The Rotary Club of Metropolitan Honolulu, the USS Louisville, 516th Signal Brigade from the Fort Shafter Army Installation and the USS Chicago have contributed to the school's various campus beautification projects, providing access to the Internet and even assisting in classes and chaperoning field trips. Also, English Second Language Learners (ESLL) provides support to 101 students whose native language range from Vietnamese, Ilocano, Cantonese, Samoan, Tagalog, Visayan, Lao, Korean, Mandarin, Tongan, Micronesian and Fijian. In fact, students have continued to improve in Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) scores and due to a strong focus on literacy, reading levels have significantly increased over the past few years.

Again, I wish to commend and congratulate the students, teachers, parents, administration, and staff of Princess Victoria Ka'iulani Elementary School for its strong efforts and proud achievement in receiving the Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

GUAM COMMEMORATES PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed the law establishing National Police Week. Commemorated every year since, this seven-day period begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday—the last day being designated as "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

This special period set aside to honor the nation's law enforcement and memorialize their fallen comrades has always served to develop close bonds between officers and their colleagues from across the country. These ceremonies of recognition and remembrance bring people together and enable survivors to gain strength from others who share and understand their grief.

Here, in our nation's capital, more than 10,000 police officers, survivors and supporters gathered to attend this year's activities.

As in the past years, National Police Week was a great demonstration of this grateful nation's appreciation for the service and sacrifices of peace officers.

In my home island of Guam, services were also held to recognize and remember those who have fallen. In ceremonies held annually, peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty were honored. The list included: Conservation Officer Francisco Isezaki, Police Officer I John M. Santos, Special Agent Larry D. Wallace, Police Officer I Francisco A. Reyes, Police Officer III Thomas M. Sablan, Police Reserve Officer Rudy C. Iglesias, Police Officer Reserve Helen K. Lizama, Police Officer I Raymond S. Sanchez, Corrections Officer I Douglas W. Mashburn, Police Officer I Eddie, A. Santos, USAF Sgt Stacey E. Levay, Police Officer I Francisco D. Taitague, Police Officer I Manuel A. Aquino, and Police Lieutenant Francisco C. Toves.

Those who have passed on within the past year were also remembered in this year's ceremonies. This list included: Col Francisco T. Aguigui, Sgt Jesus Pangelinan, Police Officer Joe Gutierrez, Detention Officer Eugene Benavente, and Police Officer Ralph Bartels.

The people of Guam join the nation in paying tribute and offering thanks for the service and sacrifices of peace officers.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES PRESIDENTIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan who celebrated his third anniversary in office on May 20th, 1999. President Lee has amassed a number of accomplishments throughout the last three years.

Of all the contemporary leaders that the Republic of China has had, President Lee Teng-hui stands out due to his exceptional ability to guide his nation through the transition to a democratic republic. Furthermore, the effects of the severe financial crisis which have affected much of Asia have been much less severe in Taiwan. This discrepancy can be attributed to President Lee Teng-hui's ability to maintain a stable democratic environment which has allowed a solid foundation for its economy to grow. In addition, he has given his people hope and optimism in Taiwan's ability to confront the future.

President Lee Teng-hui has also made great efforts in trying to reach out to his compatriots on the Chinese mainland. Unfortunately, his gestures of friendship have been answered with lukewarm responses at best from the PRC leadership. However, President Lee Teng-hui refuses to give up his hope of seeing a free and unified China in the future and continues to pursue a policy to that end. His persistence is a sign of his dedication to democracy and is greatly appreciated by the Western world, and in particular the United States.

I wish President Lee Teng-hui every success in the future. He is a respected leader of

a free, prosperous and democratic country and deserves no less than our full support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, because of weather-related travel difficulties, I was unfortunately detained in my district Monday, May 24, 1999 and missed several votes as a result.

Had I been here, I would have voted in the following way:

I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 145 and 146.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES JOHN EBNER

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and cousin, Charles "Chuck" Ebner, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on June 7th. Chuck was born in Albany, New York, and currently resides with his wife, Laurel, in Barberton, Ohio. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the dedicated service to country and community that has distinguished the life of Charles John Ebner.

In 1942, at the age of 18, Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was a "selected volunteer" for the U.S. Naval Armed Guard. He attended Gunnery School in Virginia and then was assigned to his first ship, the U.S.S. *China Mail*, whose mission was to transport troops to Africa.

On his second tour of duty on the *China Mail*, the ship circumnavigated the world. The long voyage embarked from the West Coast of Africa, traveling westward across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and through the Panama Canal. After crossing the South Pacific to Australia, the *China Mail* continued across the Indian Ocean and into the Persian Gulf, where it dropped off cargo in Iran. The ship passed through the Suez Canal and sailed across the Mediterranean on its return to the West Coast of Africa.

Chuck then returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard where he prepared for his next assignment as a gunner on the U.S.S. *Carlos Carrillo*. Later he was transferred to the U.S.S. *Sacajawea*, which took part in the invasion of Leyte in the Philippines. Shortly thereafter, his ship sailed to Pearl Harbor. At the end of the war, Chuck was ordered to return to the United States where he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy at Lido Beach, New York on October 14, 1945.

But Chuck's patriotism and sense of duty inspired him to re-enlist in the U.S. Navy on February 13, 1947 and train to become a radioman. In that capacity, he was assigned to the U.S.S. *Prairie* and stationed at the Atlantic